

## Let us know what you think of Developments!

We hope you are finding the new Developments informative and useful. Please forward this copy to others you think would enjoy reading it.

If you would like to be added to our email list or would like to share ideas for future Developments topics, please contact [dwieland@dwd.state.in.us](mailto:dwieland@dwd.state.in.us).

## Employment Trends

### January Unemployment Stats

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 5.4 percent. This is one and one-tenth of a percentage point below the national rate of 6.5 percent.

More than 2.9 million Hoosiers were employed during January.

Indiana's January unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 7.2 percent; Ohio, 6.3 percent; Illinois, 7.1 percent; and Kentucky at 6.3 percent.

### March Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 3-1-03 . . . . .	89,387
Week of 3-8-03 . . . . .	89,423
Week of 3-15-03 . . . . .	87,679
Week of 3-22-03 . . . . .	85,587
Week of 3-29-03 . . . . .	84,683

## JOBS Facts

### Job Opportunities and Business Services

The targeted industry sectors for JOBS are life sciences, advanced manufacturing, information technology and high-tech distribution.

Workforce issues such as home health care and childcare are also important to this effort. Highly trained teams are being established in all of the targeted industry sectors to aid the job placement effort. These state teams will ensure that businesses meet or exceed their need for skilled workers.

For more information about JOBS visit [www.in.gov/gov/energize](http://www.in.gov/gov/energize).

INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT



## Department of Workforce Development

Indiana Government Center South

10 N. Senate Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2277

Phone: 317/232-7670

FAX: 317/233-4793

TDD: 317/232-7560

[www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov)

Frank O'Bannon, Governor

Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

# Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

## Breaking News

### Grants for Developing Career Majors Now Available

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development recently announced the availability of \$2,358,619 in federal funds to benefit Indiana students. The funds will be available through DWD on a competitive basis to assist high schools, vocational schools and postsecondary institutions create a seamless transition between high school and postsecondary opportunities through the creation of Career Majors.

Career Majors focuses on combining academic and technical standards organized around a broad career area and building connections between education, business, labor, and community-based organizations.

"With the help of these grants, students build competencies in mathematics, science, communications, economics and workplace skills," said Alan Degner, Commissioner of DWD.

Approximately 15 grants will be awarded to eligible consortia made up of high schools, area vocational schools, postsecondary institutions, employers and labor representatives. Proposals are due June 20, 2003.

For more information on these available funds visit the DWD Technical Education website at [www.in.gov/dwd/education/teched/info/career/html](http://www.in.gov/dwd/education/teched/info/career/html).

### WorkOne Evansville: Incentives for Hiring the Disabled Worker

"Incentives for Hiring the Disabled Worker" was the topic at the WorkOne Evansville's monthly employer seminar series in March. The emphasis of the event was on the financial as well as quality incentives found in tapping the "hidden workforce."

Presentations were made by Vocational Rehabilitation explaining their services which include helping businesses keep someone on the job after they have suffered a disability. Employers heard about the Work Incentive Grant secured by the WorkOne to help expand employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities in Evansville and the surrounding area. Businesses also learned about trial work periods and tax credit programs that might be available to them.

The participants heard directly from someone who benefitted from the Work Incentive Grant. Jennifer Paris, who suffers from spina bifida, secured employment as a placement specialist and she is an excellent example of how effective vocational rehabilitation is and how it can lead to financial self-sufficiency.

### Changes for the Department of Workforce Development Executive Staff

Governor Frank O'Bannon appointed DWD Deputy Commissioner Patrick Murphy to oversee Indiana's efforts to retain its military installations when the next round of base closings begins nationwide early next year. He serves as the agency's spokesman and its liaison to the General Assembly. Murphy will continue in his present position, but will take on the additional duty of coordinating state support for Indiana's military installations.

The newest member of the DWD executive staff is Deputy Commissioner, Controller, Charles "Chuck" Martindale. He isn't new to state government. Martindale joined the Indiana Department of Commerce in 1988 and was the Controller and Chief Financial Officer for Lt. Governor Frank O'Bannon until 1995. He had the same duties at Commerce under Lt. Governor Joe Kernan until 1999 and served as the Deputy Executive Director before coming to Workforce Development.